



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2012**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Work Session Meeting on Tuesday, July 31, 2012, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Leffingwell called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Mayor Leffingwell recessed the Work Session to go into Executive Session at 9:12 a.m.

The City Council went into Executive Session, pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, to receive advice from Legal Counsel, to discuss matters of land acquisition, litigation, and personnel matters as specifically listed on this agenda and to receive advice from Legal Counsel regarding any other item on this agenda

- A.1 Discuss legal issues related to the November 6, 2012 election (Private consultation with legal counsel pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Government Code).

Executive Session ended and Mayor Leffingwell called the Work Session back to order at 10:43 a.m.

COUNCIL ITEMS OF INTEREST

- B.1 Discussion of November 2012 election matters and potential direction to staff.
Staff was directed to prepare the following ballot order for Council’s review:

- Moving city general election from May to November
- Moving city general election from May to November with 4-year terms and limiting Council members to 2 terms.
- AGR petition for geographic representation (10-1 Plan)
- Geographic representation (8-2-1 Plan)
- Personnel changes -- Council appointees
- Council appointing City Attorney
- Changing petition requirements for initiative ordinances
- Changing post-election contribution requirements
- Utility governance
- Council powers regarding lease of parkland and sale of utilities assets
- Civil service
- EMS civil service petition
- Bonds

- B.2 Approve 2nd and 3rd reading of an ordinance placing a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to provide for some council members to be elected from geographic single-member districts and some

council members to be elected at large. (Public comment is allowed) (SPONSOR: Mayor Lee Leffingwell, CO 1: Council Member Chris Riley)

The motion to approve the second reading of the ordinance with the following amendment was approved on Council Member Riley’s motion, Mayor Pro Tem Cole’s second on a 5-2 vote. Those voting aye were: Mayor Leffingwell, Mayor Pro Tem Cole, and Council Members Morrison, Riley and Tovo. Those voting nay were: Council Members Martinez and Spelman. The amendment changed Part 2(F) to read, “If this Charter does not otherwise provide for term lengths for council members this subsection applies. The regular term of the mayor and council members is three years. Council terms shall be staggered so that half or as near to half as is practical, of the council is elected at each general election. The council shall provide by ordinance for any transitions necessitated by this section regarding the length of council terms and the staggering of council elections. If a council term is materially shortened to create a stagger, that term shall not count as a term for the purpose of Article II, Section 3, of this Charter. Notwithstanding Subsection (A) of this section, if another charter amendment that addresses only the issue of election dates or that addresses only the issues of term lengths and election dates, is approved by the voters, the other amendment supersedes this amendment on that issue regardless of the number of votes received by each amendment.”

- B.3 Discuss appointments to the CAPCOG Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (Council Member Kathie Tovo).
Staff was directed to post the discussion and appointment to CAPCOG Criminal Justice Advisory Committee at one of the Council meetings scheduled for next week.

The Mayor introduced the agenda for the August 2, 2012 Council meeting and allowed Council to give input or ask questions on any item posted on the agenda. Staff was available to provide verbal responses to Council questions. Discussion was held on the following items taken from Thursday’s agenda.

Public Hearings and Possible Actions

- 122. Approve an ordinance on second and third readings amending Title 25 of the City Code addressing the short term rental of residential units. (Public Hearing closed)
There will be a request for postponement of this item to the August 23, 2012 Council Meeting at this Thursday’s meeting and a request to reopen the public hearing with different rules since the legal requirement for a public hearing was previously met.
- 117. Conduct a public hearing regarding a proposed November 2012 bond election.
Mayor Pro Tem Cole indicated she will be requesting this public hearing be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday.

Mayor Leffingwell adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 16th day of August, 2012 on Council Member Martinez’ motion, Council Member Riley’s second on a 6-0 vote. Council Member Spelman was absent.